

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. An open package test fixture for testing the seal strength of
flexible packages comprising:

a pair of clamping jaws;

a pressure supply/ sensing nozzle;

a pair of actuators for initiating a clamping force; and

an actuator to releasing the clamping force.

2. The open package test fixture of claim 1 wherein said pair of
clamping jaws comprises an upper clamping jaw and a lower clamping
jaw.

3. The open package test fixture of claim 2 wherein each of said
upper clamping jaw and said lower clamping jaw further comprise a face
region, and said face region of at least one of said clamping jaws further
comprises a leak proof crushable material.

4. The open package test fixture of claim 2 wherein said pressure
supply/sensing nozzle is located between said upper clamping jaw and
said lower clamping jaw.

5. The open package test fixture of claim 2 wherein said upper clamping jaw further comprises an upper clamping jaw mating surface and said lower clamping jaw further comprises a lower clamping jaw mating surface.

6. The open package test fixture of claim 5 wherein said upper clamping jaw mating surface and said lower clamping jaw mating surface are positioned to accommodate said pressure supply/sensing nozzle located there between.

7. The open package test fixture of claim 1 further comprising a fixture plate body having a fixture plate base.

8. The open package test fixture of claim 7 wherein said fixture plate base has a first side and a second side, and said upper clamping jaw and said lower clamping jaw are located between said first side of said fixture plate body and said second side of said fixture plate body .

9. The open package test fixture of claim 8 wherein said pair of actuators further comprises a first anti-tie down safety actuator and a second anti-tie down safety actuator, wherein said first anti-tie down safety actuator is located proximate to said first side of said fixture base plate,

and said second anti-tie down safety actuator is located proximate to said second side of said fixture base plate.

5 10. The open package test fixture of claim 9, wherein said device is actuated by pressing the said first anti-tie down safety actuator and said second anti-tie down safety actuator concurrently.

10 11. The open package test fixture of claim 1 further comprising a precision nozzle orientation guide, wherein said supply/sensing nozzle is affixed to said open package test fixture using said precision nozzle orientation guide to ensure proper alignment and a leakproof seal when mated together.

15 12. The open package test fixture of claim 1 further comprising a barrier for preventing a user from inserting his fingers between the clamping jaws when actuating the clamping mechanism.

20 13. The open package test fixture of claim 1 further comprising a high pressure gas supply.

14. An open package test fixture for testing the seal strength of flexible packages comprising:
a pair of clamping jaws having mating surfaces;

a crushable material attached to said jaws;
a pressure supply/ sensing nozzle;
a precision nozzle orientation guide;
a pair of actuators for initiating a clamping force;
5 an actuator to releasing the clamping force; and
a barrier to prevent insertion of fingers into clamps while actuating
the clamping force.

15. The open package test fixture of claim 14 further comprising a
10 force generating means.

16. The open package test fixture of claim 15 wherein said force
generating means comprises a high pressure gas supply.

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